

32. A method for adhering floor covering elements (16) of wood or wood materials to a sub-floor (10), comprising applying to said sub-floor and to the surface of said floor covering elements to be adhered an adhesive which when hardened has a break elongation of 30 to 1000%.

33. A method as in Claim 21, wherein the adhesive (12) is applied with a layer thickness of 0.5 to 5 mm.

REMARKS

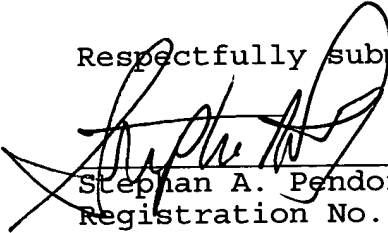
Although original PCT claims 1-23 have been replaced by PCT claims 1-20, the present new claims are numbered beginning with claim 24 in order to avoid confusion with original PCT claims 1-23.

The claims have been amended in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims and claims improperly depending from multiple dependent claims, and to otherwise conform the claims to U.S. practice. Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter is added to the text.

Entry and favorable consideration prior to consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: EU005133105US

DATE OF DEPOSIT: December 12, 2001

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment and a stamped receipt post card are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated and is addressed: ATTN: Box PCT, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.


Bonnie L. Horst

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The Examiner is requested to accept the marked-up version as it is based on the previous version, which when modified as below, produces the clean version submitted with the current amendment.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please delete original Claims 1-13.

Please cancel Substitute Claims 1-13.

Please add the following new Claims 14-33:

- 14. A floor, comprised of
a sub-floor (10) continuously covered with a layer (12)
of hardened adhesive, and
covering elements (16) of wood or wood materials having
a surface adhered to the layer of hardened adhesive, wherein
said covering elements are completely covered on their
adhered surface with the adhesive,
wherein the adhesive layer (12) has a layer thickness
of 0.5 to 5 mm, and wherein the adhesive has a shear
strength in the hardened condition which is less than 1.2
N/mm² and less than that of the sub-floor (10).
15. A floor according to Claim 14, wherein the shear strength of
the adhesive is from 0.6 to 1.0 N/mm².
16. A floor according to Claim 14, wherein the adhesive is
comprised of a reaction-type resin which hardens upon
exposure to water.

17. A floor according to Claim 16, wherein the resin is a polyurethane or polyurethane hybrid resin.
18. A floor according to Claims 14, wherein the adhesive is comprised of modified silicone polymers.
19. A floor according to Claim 14, wherein the adhesive in the hardened condition has a Shore (A) hardness of 20 to 35.
20. A floor according to Claim 14, wherein the adhesive in the hardened condition has a break elongation (strain at break) of 300 to 1000%.
21. A method for adhering floor covering elements (16) of wood or wood materials to a sub-floor (10), comprising applying to said sub-floor and to the surface of said floor covering elements to be adhered an adhesive which hardens to a shear strength of less than 1.2 N/mm^2 .
22. A method as in claim 21, wherein said adhesive hardens to a shear strength of 0.6 to 1.0 N/mm^2 .
23. A method as in Claim 21, wherein said sub-floor is comprised of cement, concrete or dry-construction plates.
24. A method as in Claim 21, wherein the adhesive (12) is applied with a layer thickness of 0.5 to 5 mm.
25. A method as in Claim 21, wherein the adhesive is a polyurethane or polyurethane hybrid which hardens upon exposure to water.

26. A method as in Claim 21, wherein the adhesive is a one component modified silicone polymer.
27. A method for adhering floor covering elements (16) of wood or wood materials to a sub-floor (10), comprising applying to said sub-floor and to the surface of said floor covering elements to be adhered an adhesive which hardens to a shore hardness (A) of 20 to 35.
28. A method as in Claim 27, wherein said sub-floor is comprised of cement, concrete or dry-construction plates.
29. A method as in Claim 27, wherein the adhesive (12) is applied with a layer thickness of 0.5 to 5 mm.
30. A method as in Claim 27, wherein the adhesive is a polyurethane or polyurethane hybrid which hardens upon exposure to water.
31. A method as in Claim 27, wherein the adhesive is a one component modified silicone polymer.
32. A method for adhering floor covering elements (16) of wood or wood materials to a sub-floor (10), comprising applying to said sub-floor and to the surface of said floor covering elements to be adhered an adhesive which when hardened has a break elongation of 30 to 1000%.
33. A method as in Claim 21, wherein the adhesive (12) is applied with a layer thickness of 0.5 to 5 mm.--